

Trident launched from submarine

CAPE CANAVERAL (AP) — The crew of the nuclear submarine Tennessee, thwarted last week by anti-nuclear protesters, launched a Trident 2 missile Wednesday in the first successful underwater test of the navy's newest, deadliest weapon. The Tennessee was cruising about 30 kilometers off Cape Canaveral when 13-meter Trident 2 burst to the surface, ignited and propelled a dummy warhead package for down the Atlantic tracking range. The navy announced several minutes after the 11 a.m. (1500 GMT) firing that the test flight was a success. A navy statement provided no details. The results were in sharp contrast to the Trident 2's first underwater launch March 21 when the missile whirled out of control and exploded four seconds after it was launched from the Tennessee. Investigators traced the problem to a mechanical linkage responsible for moving the rocket nozzles back and forth. The system was redesigned. The test had been rescheduled last Friday but was halted when two large Greenpeace USA ships sailed into the launch danger zone in international waters. Two small motorized rafts dispatched from one of the ships beamed the submarine and crew members attached three "nuclear free seas" banners to it. The greenpeace vessels did not return.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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KAL 'guilty of willful misconduct'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. jury Wednesday found Korean Airlines (KAL) guilty of willful misconduct when one of its planes flew off course six years ago and was shot down by a Soviet war plane, killing all 269 people aboard. The federal jury of three men and three women ruled that the actions by KAL's crew were one of the causes of the downing of Flight 007 by a Soviet fighter plane. Wednesday's verdict permits the families of the dead passengers to file individual suits seeking damages in excess of a \$75,000 per passenger limit on compensation set under international treaty. After the ruling read in court by U.S. District Judge Anthony Robinson, the jury began deliberating the question of whether the families are entitled to punitive damages as well and if so, in what amount. In final arguments Tuesday after a two-week trial in U.S. district court, lawyers for families of the victims said Flight 007 was off course almost from the minute it left the ground in Anchorage, Alaska, and headed in its Pacific Ocean route for Seoul, South Korea.

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Sharif Zaid, Qasem return from Jeddah

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister Marwan Al Qasem accompanied His Majesty King Hussein on a visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday re-

turned to Amman Wednesday afternoon. They had remained in Jeddah at the request of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to continue discussions that started Monday.

Committee donates JD 1.5 m to intifada

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian fund-raising group said Wednesday it has collected JD 2.06 million and contributed JD 1.5 million to the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mamduh Al Abbadi, treasurer, of the Popular Committee for Supporting the Intifada, told reporters the funds had been raised since January.

"We gave JD 1,000 to families of each martyr and JD 200 to each one wounded in the intifada," he said.

"We also supplied hospitals with equipment and medical supplies," he added.



A three-year-old girl cries after her house was destroyed in West Beirut during shelling between rival forces.

Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has accepted an invitation to visit Jordan this year, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Wednesday.

Petra quoted a spokesman for the Prime Ministry as saying the visit comes upon an invitation by Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Petra said the date of the visit was not yet fixed and would be announced later.

Hizbullah warns U.S. to stay away

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Lebanese militants warned Washington Wednesday there would be "no limits" to "our reprisals" if the United States retaliated over the reported killing of kidnapped U.S. Marine Colonel William Higgins in Lebanon.

Sheikh Abbas Musawi, a top figure in the pro-Iranian Hizbullah (Party of God) issued the warning in an interview with Reuters following reports that 14 American warships — a number of them in the Mediterranean — had hurriedly left port.

Musawi said Washington could not afford the price of "another crime in our area."

"If the new American tyrant (President George) Bush commits any action, we will teach him a lesson he will never forget," Musawi said, recalling attacks by pro-Iranian militants against U.S. forces in Lebanon since 1982, including a suicide truck bomb that killed 241 Marines in their Beirut barracks in October 1983.

"We taught America a lesson that it will never forget. It was a harsh lesson to the U.S. administration," Musawi said.

The Organisation of the Oppressed of the World said Monday it had hanged Higgins after Israel failed to release Sheik Abdul Karim Obeid, a leading Lebanese clergymen abducted by Israeli forces from South Lebanon last week.

A second American captive in Lebanon, Joseph Cicippio, has also been threatened with death Thursday unless Israel gives in to the demands for the release of Obeid, a Hizbullah leader.

U.S. Defense Department officials said that the flagship and commander of the Sixth Fleet cancelled a Soviet port call in order to be "at the beck and call" of Bush in case he needs them in the current hostage situation. The USS Belknap, the flagship of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, cancelled its scheduled visit to the Soviet port of Sevastopol, and the aircraft carrier USS America also has cut short a visit and left the port of Singapore, other officials said.

Overall, there are some 25 U.S. ships in the Mediterranean at this time, with approximately 20 others in the Gulf and Indian Ocean region, Defense Department officials said.

Officials of Israel and the United States said that the two sides were cooperating closely to resolve the crisis.

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly told reporters after talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens: "Both governments are going to try to cooperate very closely to bring things to an improvement."

He would not elaborate on details of the talks, but Arens said Washington was pressing Iran and Syria to get extremists in Lebanon to release 17 Western

hostages and three Israeli soldiers they are believed to hold.

Arens told reporters Kelly had expressed "no criticism" of the Israeli kidnapping.

Meanwhile, U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding also arrived in the region and flew into South Lebanon by helicopter to investigate the report that the kidnappers had hanged Higgins, who was serving as a U.N. truce observer when he was kidnapped in Lebanon in February last year.

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"His Holiness expressed the willingness of the Holy See to find a solution to this problem," a Vatican statement said.

Bush also called Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal, while other U.S. officials contacted the Soviet Union and other countries in the Middle East to seek assistance in winning freedom for the remaining Western hostages.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in Tehran that Moscow would use its growing influence in Iran on behalf of the hostages.

West Germany is using its contacts with Iran and Syria to try to help save the lives of Westerners held hostage, a Bonn government official said, adding: "The American government asked us to use our influence in order to help save the lives of Westerners in the current hostage situation. The USS Belknap, the flagship of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, cancelled its scheduled visit to the Soviet port of Sevastopol, and the aircraft carrier USS America also has cut short a visit and left the port of Singapore, other officials said.

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Beirut

shelling rages

BEIRUT (AP) — Rival gunners skirmished intermittently with mortars and automatic rifles in Beirut and the surrounding mountains Wednesday and a police spokesman said six people were wounded.

The spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules, said they also fired rocket-propelled grenades at each other's positions across the capital's dividing green line.

Four of the casualties were wounded in east Beirut and two in the city's western sector, most of them by sniper fire, he said.

By police count, the five-month confrontation between army commander Michel Aoun's predominantly Christian soldiers and Syrian-backed militia forces in Lebanon has claimed 511 lives and wounded 2,168 people.

The skirmishing, combined with fears that heavy shelling would resume, prompted cancellation of traditional celebrations of the Islamic new year, which fell Wednesday.

Dar Al Farwa, the highest Sun-

ni Muslim religious authority, called off its traditional new year reception because of the current round of violence.

Sheikh Rashid, a clergymen at the Dar Al Farwa Centre, said: "There is no celebration mood. Beirut has been largely demolished and hundreds of innocent people have been killed. Do you expect anyone to celebrate anything?"

Ferocious artillery duels between Aoun's gunners and the Syrian-backed militias inflicted severe damage on most of Beirut, forcing 1.3 million of its original 1.5 million population to desert the city and seek refuge in safer areas.

However, government offices, banks, and other businesses closed in Beirut's both sectors to mark the new year's day, regarded as an official holiday throughout the country.

The current confrontation broke out March 8, two days after Aoun blockaded illegal ports run by militias south of Beirut for

depriving the ailing state treasury of about \$100 million annually in lost customs dues.

The Syrians and their militia allies retaliated by shelling and besieging the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave northeast of Beirut.

A three-member Arab League foreign ministers' mediation committee said Tuesday it has reached an "impasse" for which it blamed Syria.

King Hassan II of Morocco, King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid were asked by a Arab summit May 26 to find a settlement by November to the 14-year civil war. Their foreign ministers have been shuttling between Beirut and Damascus since then.

The daily newspaper Safir described the committee's report as "very serious because it reflected a hostile attitude towards Syria."

Farouq Abillama, an aide to Aoun, described the committee's report as an "indictment of the Syrian presence in Lebanon."



Children swim in a river in South Lebanon as their parents prepare lunch in their makeshift tent at the bank of the river. They are among hundreds of people who fled the carnage in Beirut.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Chad sends delegation to Libya

NDJAMENA (R) — A Chadian government delegation is visiting Libya to resume peace efforts that founders two weeks ago over how to resolve a dispute over the Aouzou Strip border region. The trip is a follow-up to the July 20 meeting in the Malian capital Bamako between Chad's President Hissene Habre and Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi. delegation head Mahamat Korom told reporters.

Coptic pope to visit U.S.

CAIRO (AP) — Pope Shenouda III, spiritual leader of more than six million Coptic Christians, will spend about two months in the United States this year as part of a pastoral tour of three continents. It will be his second major world swing since becoming pope in November 1971. Besides the United States, he is to visit Britain, Canada and Australia.

S. Arabia eases restrictions on S. Yemenis

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has agreed to ease travel and work restrictions on half a million South Yemenis living in the kingdom. A statement issued after a two-day visit by South Yemeni Prime Minister Yassin Said No'man to Jeddah said the two states reviewed "treatment of South Yemenis in Saudi Arabia and agreed to ease travel and work measures."

Mauritania: Senegal escalating row

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania has accused Senegal of trying to escalate a four-month-old border dispute which has led to hundreds of dead and thousands of displaced people in the two neighbouring countries. "Senegal has reverted to a hardline and outdated stance which is a further indication of its determination to escalate the row," Mauritania Foreign Minister Cheikh Sidi Ahmed Ould Baba said in a statement Tuesday.

Iran reported to have overseas assassin squad

WASHINGTON (AP) — Western law enforcement officials and diplomats believe Iran is responsible for two recent political murders outside its borders, raising fears that Teheran has set up a unit of assassins to kill foes on foreign soil, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The Washington Post, in a dispatch from Dubai appearing in Wednesday editions, said Iranian assassins or are suspected of the murder of a Kurdish leader in Vienna, Austria, and a former Iranian military intelligence officer in Dubai.

Unidentified Iranian exile sources were quoted as saying Iran's Revolutionary Guards have set up a team of assassins.

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Kelly said significant differences between the parties still blocked progress towards ending the conflict.

"We believe that the will of the Afghan people is that there

Superpowers make little headway on Afghanistan

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — Two days of talks on Afghanistan by U.S. and Soviet officials in Stockholm have failed to achieve progress, according to a senior U.S. official.

"Other than a frank exchange we came to no results at all," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly told reporters Tuesday at the end of the talks, the first superpower meeting on Afghanistan at this level in 15 months.

The Soviet delegation leader, Ambassador-at-large Nikolai Kozurov, would not comment, beyond saying the talks were "fruitful and useful."

As the delegations met in Stockholm, reports from Afghanistan indicated both the U.S. and the Soviet Union had stepped up arms shipments — to the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah and the U.S.-supported Mujahedeen

in Kabul.

The Soviet ambassador in Kabul said last month that the Soviet delegation would use the Stockholm meeting to propose an agreement with the United States obliging both superpowers to stop supplying arms for the war.

But Kelly said no agreement of this kind had been reached.

should be a different regime in Kabul.

"But the Soviet government is supplying more than \$200 million worth of weaponry to Kabul each month to keep it (the Najibullah regime) in power," he said.

When Soviet troops withdrew from Afghanistan last February, it was widely expected that the Najibullah government would collapse within weeks.

But the Mujahedeen, entangled by internal divisions, have managed to secure only six of 31 provincial capitals and have also failed to gain control of the strategic eastern city of Jalalabad.

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Government forces confiscated large quantities of arms and documents, and arrested about 30 people, Amani said. After identity checks, some were released, but he did not say how many.

In one operation in northeast Kabul, he said, 100 rockets, some Egyptian and Chinese-made, were confiscated.

The account could not be verified independently.

Rockets seized

In Kabul, a government spokesman said Tuesday a major military operation in and around the Afghan capital resulted in the

confiscation of 100 rockets and 50 arrests.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the government issued urgent instructions to the armed forces Monday to take any military measures necessary to stop rocket attacks that have hit almost daily in the capital since June. No rockets fell on Kabul Tuesday.

United Nations sources said that since June 25, rockets and a car bombing have killed 281 people and injured 745, virtually all civilians. On Monday, Kabul was pounded by 14 rockets that killed 24 people and injured 58.

Amani said a search operation started Monday evening and continued until Tuesday morning.

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Shevardnadze ends Iran visit with mediation offer

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze left Tehran Tuesday after announcing that the Soviet Union was willing to mediate in deadlocked peace talks between Iran and Iraq, Tehran Radio reported.

The radio also quoted Shevardnadze as telling President-elect Hissene Rafsanjani that Iraq should withdraw from Iranian territory it still holds.

"We deeply regret that a group of Iranian and Iraqi people are held captives, but their release would be impossible before Iraq's withdrawal from Iranian soil," the radio reported.

He was referring to more than 100,000 prisoners of war (PoW) held by both sides.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Shevardnadze said the Soviet Union was willing to exploit good relations with both Gulf war foes in an effort to further the talks, according to the broadcast Monday.

The Iran-Iraq peace talks started five days after a United Nations-mediated ceasefire halted the war last Aug. 20, but deadlocked immediately.

Further rounds of negotiation faltered over Tehran's demand that Iraq must withdraw all its troops from 1,000 square kilometres and Baghdad's insistence that the Shatt Al Arab waterway should belong to Iraq.

Rafsanjani, having expressed deep regret about what had happened, confirmed that Iran has no connection with the tragedy played out in Lebanon.

Referring to recently improved bilateral ties, Shevardnadze said: "Our two countries have opened a new chapter in relations."

"We are prepared to expand ties in all fields with respect to the socio-political order, which the Iranian nation has independently chosen," the radio quoted him as saying.

The sides condemned all acts of a terrorist nature and called for the adoption of urgent measures to prevent a further exacerbation of the situation," it added.

Shevardnadze discussed the situation in Lebanon during his talks with Velayati. They agreed to hold further close consultations on the issue, TASS said.

Iranian foreign minister "in the interests of international peace," the radio reported.

Velayati welcomed Shevardnadze's offer to intercede in the peace talks.

He hinted before Shevardnadze's arrival that Iran would like the Soviet Union to use its influence in the United Nations to pressure Iraq.

The Soviets are thought to have leverage with Baghdad as Iraq's main arms supplier in the Gulf war.

Shevardnadze also met Tuesday with Prime Minister Hussein Misrahi, the radio said.

According to the Soviet TASS news agency, Shevardnadze and Rafsanjani also expressed regret at the reported killing of American hostage Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins.

Rafsanjani, in his first meeting with a foreign statesman since his election Friday, also signed a joint statement "condemning all acts of a terrorist nature," the official Soviet news agency said.

TASS said the two men noted a nearing of Soviet and Iranian positions on finding a solution to the civil war in Afghanistan and setting up a broad-based government there.

TASS said Shevardnadze expressed "serious concern" to Rafsanjani over the kidnapping by Israeli commandos of Shi'ite Muslim cleric Abdul Karim Al-Ahmad from his home in South Lebanon Friday and the reported hanging of Higgins.

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SPLA promises safe conduct for relief train

KHARTOUM (Agencies) —

not immediately available to comment on the rebel announcement.

The U.N. says that 250,000 died in 1988 from starvation, disease and from the fighting in the south. They warned that 100,000 could die this year unless enough food is prepositioned in the southern regions. So far, about 80 per cent of the food and supplies has been moved.

The SPLA radio also said that presidents Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia would act as mediators in peace talks with Sudan's military rulers.

The radio said the two African leaders had told the SPLA they would try to mediate an end to Sudan's six-year-old civil war. It gave no other details.

Mubarak, elected chairman of the 49-nation Organisation of African Unity (OAU) last week, has met SPLA leader John Garang to work out details of the proposed talks, expected to start in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa later this week.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it regards as domination of the south by the north, has its main offices in Ethiopia.

The rebel radio, citing what it said were circumstances beyond the SPLA control, also said Garang had postponed a major address due to have been made Tuesday.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

6:45

Damascus, Syria (AF)

11:15 — Tunis (TU)

12:00 — Saigon (LH)

14:05 — Istanbul (TK)

15:30 — Bahrain, Manama (GF)

15:35 — Kuwait (KU)

16:15 — Baghdad (IA)

16:25 — Doha, Qatar (QF)

18:45 — Bahrain, Manama (GF)

19:15 — Bangkok, Thailand (TG)

20:15 — Seoul, South Korea (KE)

20:45 — Tokyo, Japan (JL)

21:15 — Paris, France (AF)

21:45 — London, U.K. (BA)

22:15 — Rome, Italy (AL)

22:45 — Paris, France (AF)

23:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

23:45 — Paris, France (AF)

24:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

24:45 — Paris, France (AF)

25:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

25:45 — Paris, France (AF)

26:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

26:45 — Paris, France (AF)

27:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

27:45 — Paris, France (AF)

28:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

28:45 — Paris, France (AF)

29:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

29:45 — Paris, France (AF)

30:15 — London, U.K. (BA)

Queen visits Ma'an

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor visited Ma'an Wednesday and toured the village of Dlgha, 50 kilometres west of the Ma'an Governorate. The Queen conveyed to the nobles and people of Dlgha His Majesty King Hussein's regards and inspected the services available in the area.

Accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah, Queen Noor inaugurated the Social Centre, recently established by the Union of Voluntary Societies, and toured the health centre and the elementary school.

Queen Noor also inspected the nutrition centre, opened by the Ministry of Social Development and provides a daily hot meal for the children and students, and inquired about the health situation in the village.

Later Wednesday the Queen discussed with the people the prospects of opening new projects that are capable of overcoming their economic difficulties, and of upgrading their social, educational, and health situation.

The chief of the village council delivered a speech, in which he welcomed Queen Noor and thanked her for her visit to the village.

He conveyed the gratitude and appreciation of the people for Queen Noor's donations to the



Her Majesty Queen Noor meets women and children from Ma'an during a visit she paid to the area Wednesday (Petra photo)

Centres for organising flow of bridge travellers to close

AMMAN (J.T.) — The three centres opened in Jordan last month to organise travel to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will close down as of Sunday Aug. 6, 1989, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD) here Wednesday.

The statement said that the centres will be closed in view of the decline in the number of travellers who, from now on can go directly to the bridges for their trip across the bridges to the West Bank.

The three centres — in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid — had to be opened in view of the large

number of people that used to throng the terminals at the bridges wishing to cross into the occupied West Bank.

Travellers normally make their visits during the summer holidays and many of them come from the Gulf states where they are employed.

Earlier this summer, the Israeli authorities turned away many of the travellers drastically reducing the normal number of people who cross to the West Bank, thus complicating matters for the Jordanian authorities at the bridges and prompting the opening of the three centres to organise travel.



Prince Abdullah attends badia ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Wednesday attended a ceremony at the Badia Police Headquarters marking the start of two training courses for police officers.

The Badia Police commander delivered a speech outlining the training courses and duties of the units. He said 76 officers will take part in the ceremony and the exercises.

training courses which will last seven weeks. The participants will receive theoretical and practical training on all types of light weapons, first aid, combat tactics and communications.

Later, Prince Abdullah watched a training exercise in which troops displayed their different combat skills. Senior Public Security Department officials and police officers were present at the ceremony and the exercises.

Workshop to orient kindergartens teachers in teaching mathematics

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Association for the Education of Children, which is sponsored by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), will organise a workshop on Saturday, Aug. 5, 1989, to orient Jordanian teachers on methods for teaching mathematics in the pre-school stage.

Altogether a total of 30 teachers and headmasters representing kindergartens in the Amman region will take part in the workshop.

The association, which has a total of 182 members and has branches in Aqaba and Irbid, was established by the centre for early childhood education in 1986.

The workshop is designed to help the kindergarten teachers to improve their skill and performance in imparting basic education to the children at this stage.

The centre is being sponsored by the NHF in cooperation with the University of Jordan, which appointed a site in its campus

for its establishment at the cost of nearly \$1 million, nearly half of which has been raised in various contributions.

NHF has already begun formal implementation of the first phase of the project preparing staff for the centre and organising a series of training courses for teachers at the nursery and kindergarten levels.

In addition, NHF has dispatch-

ed several Jordanians abroad for specialised training and academic degrees in early childhood education.

National Association for the Education of the Child membership consists of institutions and individuals concerned with early childhood, and will serve as a coordinating and advisory body for the centre's activities.

Amman-Damascus rail

AMMAN (Petra) — Arrangements are under way for reactivating trips between Amman and Damascus by rail through joint cooperation between the Jordanian and Syrian governments, according to an announcement by Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khammash.

Khammash made the statement during his talks Wednesday with the director general of the

Jordan Hijaz Railway Line with whom he reviewed means of boosting travel by rail between Jordan and Syria.

Trains commuting between the two countries, the minister noted, will be transporting goods, and passengers in implementation of resolutions taken by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee which met recently in Damascus.



Omarieh students visit University of Jordan

The 30 students who are currently taking summer courses were briefed on the various items and antiquities stored at the museum, and later met with a number of university officials.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rabah Sagheer at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- ★ A graphic art exhibition by students of Fine Arts Department at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ An exhibition of natural rose saplings at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thammar Thar" at the Roman Amphitheatre downtown Amman — 8:00 p.m.

Crown Prince, Ramadan open exhibition of Iraqi products

AMMAN (J.T.) — A two-week exhibition of Iraqi products was opened Wednesday at the King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein Complex at Wadi Saqra Street by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

Prince Hassan and Ramadan toured the different parts of the exhibition and inspected various items on display.

According to Ministry of Industry and Trade officials here, the exhibition displays foodstuffs, textiles, electrical appliances, chemical and plastic products, handicrafts and another assortment of Iraqi products.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salem Massadeh, a number of other ministers and officials as well as Iraqi embassy staff attended the opening ceremony.

Later, Mr. Hadi Taleh Ibrahim, commercial attaché at the Iraqi embassy here said that the exhibition, the second of its kind in the country, is aimed at intro-



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Iraqi First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan Wednesday inspect the different sections of the exhibition of Iraqi products at the King Abdallah Complex in Amman (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

ducing the Iraqi goods and various export products to the Jordanian public.

The exhibition was organised in implementation of minutes of the joint Jordanian-Iraqi ministerial meeting held here earlier and with the purpose of bolstering Jordanian-Iraqi relations in trade and economic fields. Ibrahim noted in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

Ibrahim paid tribute to the efforts of officials at the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Amman Development Corporation who helped to organise the exhibition.

He said that an exhibition of Jordanian products will be organised in Baghdad in September.

Later, Ramadan, who left for home, said that he believed a

verbal message to His Majesty King Hussein from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Ramadan said he was happy that the visit offered him the chance to meet with the King and Prince Hassan to review a number of pan-Arab and international issues as well as means of bolstering cooperation among the four member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) of which Iraq and Jordan are members.

The talks also covered the ACC's coming meeting in Sanaa and were identical on all topics discussed. The views of both sides were identical on various topics.

Chief of the Royal Court Thouran Hindawi, several cabinet members and other officials and high ranking army officers were at the airport to bid farewell to the Iraqi minister.

appointed by the Arab League to find a peaceful formula for Lebanon. Ramadan said that both King Hussein and President Hussein are in agreement on the need for the heads of Arab countries to take a collective measure to save Lebanon and protect its national sovereignty.

He said that the Palestine question and developments in the occupied Arab lands came under review in his meeting with the King with whom he also discussed cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Chief of the Royal Court Thouran Hindawi, several cabinet members and other officials and high ranking army officers were at the airport to bid farewell to the Iraqi minister.

Ministry starts implementation of soil survey, classification project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Agriculture Wednesday announced that it has embarked on the implementation of the first phase of a soil survey and classification project in the Kingdom which is being financed through a grant from the European Community (EC).

According to Mr. Baker Qudah, assistant technical director of the project, the work will be carried out in three stages which will last more than eight years.

The EC last month pledged through an agreement signed here to provide \$3.5 million for the project which will be carried out by a firm under contract with the EC.

The project according to EC officials will provide the country with a tool to protect the soil and increase food production.

It entails wide agricultural production, expansions in rain-fed regions and areas irrigated by river water alike. The grant was part of the EC assistance programme to Jordan under the

second and third protocols signed here in 1982 and 1987.

Baker told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the first phase entails an exploratory study covering all parts of Jordan and the preparation of soil maps using the remote sensing technique.

The second phase which will cover eight million dunums of land is expected to be more detailed and will pinpoint areas to be given priority for development, Baker noted. He said that the second phase is expected to take two years to be completed.

The third phase which covers one million dunums entails executing maintenance of soil, planting of forest trees and carrying out irrigation schemes, Baker said.

He noted that the third phase is expected to take six years to be completed.

"This project is deemed necessary in view of the fact that only nine per cent of the total land in Jordan is exploited and cultivated for agricultural production," Baker pointed out.

He said that Jordan's total area is 96,000 square kilometres, most of which is unused and unexploited due to a lack of reasons, including mis-use of land and soil.

Baker said that the horizontal expansion of cities and villages in the Kingdom has led to swallowing up of enormous areas of land and the destruction of plantations.

In addition the pollution of soil and water has aggravated the situation and prompted the government to take action and carry out the scheme, Baker noted.

Baker said that the lack of a general survey of the soil in the Kingdom, the poor pasture lands and the lack of forests "are enough reasons to prompt the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct agricultural projects on a large scale, including the soil classification scheme."

He said that the project entails drawing up of maps for soil use and providing for the protection of the soil.

Jordanian youths end 5-day camp

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day youth camp for Jordanian students living abroad ended at Ajloun Wednesday.

The Ministry of Youth had organised the event to enable the young students to take part in useful activities in Jordan and learn more about their home country.

Minister of Youth Awad Khleifat addressed the closing meeting underlining the importance of such gathering which included seminars, lectures, panel discussions and field trips to various cultural areas and archaeological sites.



Samra receives Indian envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Indian Ambassador to Jordan K. Gajendra called at the University of Jordan and met with its President Mahmoud Al Samra. They discussed means of developing cultural and scientific cooperation between Jordanian and Indian universities.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONDOLENCES TO AL JAZI FAMILY: His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs Sharif Zabari to convey condolences to the Al Jazi family on the death late Shihab Safouq Al Jazi. (Petra)

TOURIST CAMP IN AMMAN: The Greater Amman Municipality announced Wednesday that it has set up a permanent site for a tourist camp within the Amman National Park. It said that the scouts visiting Jordan from a number of Islamic nations. According to the announcement, the municipality has provided all basic facilities and sanitary utilities and other services. The group of Muslim scouts have spent 10 days in the country. (Petra)

RED CROSS OFFICIALS MEET: A delegation representing the Red Cross in West Germany arrived in Amman Wednesday on a five-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will hold talks with Jordan National Red Crescent Society President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qoura and other Red Crescent officials on the means to develop bilateral cooperation between Jordan and West Germany. (Petra)



Jordan Times

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Call a spade a spade in Lebanon

IT WOULD be presumptuous on behalf of any party to even suggest to the Higher Arab Committee on Lebanon how to prepare its projected report on its aborted mission to end the crisis in Lebanon. The fact that the said committee is determined to submit its report on its efforts to resolve the Lebanese situation is a good omen and may yet prove to be the very catalyst for a fresh and effective Arab attempt to end the violence in Lebanon and begin the process of healing in that country. That is why considerable importance is attached to the anticipated report.

Yet, the great hopes that were generated by the news that a report on Lebanon will be forthcoming would be dashed if the contents of any such report were not candid enough. There is an unfortunate tendency in inter-Arab diplomacy to sugar-coat differences and white-wash blame. After 15 years of carnage in Lebanon, it is high time to call a spade a spade and spell out the real reasons that aborted the Arab mission in Lebanon. As long as inter-Arab diplomacy continues to gloss over hard-core issues in Lebanon and avoids addressing differences of position head on, then there is but one fate that awaits Arab efforts in that country, namely, permanent failure. And everybody knows that a permanent Arab failure in Lebanon would necessarily mean the miscarriage of a permanent solution in that country for as long as one can see. For even if the international community, through the U.N. Security Council, decides to take the hull by the horns in Lebanon it would still need full Arab cooperation to succeed.

What makes the preparation of the Higher Arab Committee's report appear formidable is the proposition that in the Lebanese dilemma there is no absolute guilt or innocence among the parties. For it would be fair to conclude that all parties to the Lebanese catastrophe are responsible in varying degrees for the ongoing tragedy. Still such truism could at the end be a blessing in disguise and make it easier for the committee to speak out more openly than ever. For if it adopts the view that all parties in Lebanon are collectively guilty, then it should be possible for it to point out in utmost frankness how and where each and every party is at fault. Once the nature of the wrong-doing of each party is determined and detailed, then it would become feasible to apply the necessary antidotes for it. The upshot then of the Higher Arab Committee's report should be to speak out in an uncertain terms about the responsibility of each and every actor in the Lebanese scene.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily commented Wednesday on King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia and his talks with King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz on issues of mutual concern and Arab affairs. The Arabic daily said that the two monarchs have been spearheading all pan-Arab actions and both have pledged continued support for endeavours to serve the Arab causes. Saudi Arabia has always lent support and backing to Jordan's efforts at all levels and specially in matters where the Arab order is concerned and in the face of the common enemy, the paper noted. Saudi Arabia realises that it is of the utmost importance at the moment to come to the aid of Jordan in its struggle to fend off pressure and deal with conspiracies designed to undermine its national stand, said the daily. Any Saudi Arabian support for Jordan is part of the ongoing endeavours for protecting the Arab order and safeguarding the Arab national interests, the paper added. It said that there is no alternative to a stable and progressing Jordan which can rightly and strongly confront the conspiracies and can and must guard against plots being hatched against the Arab Nation. King Hussein's visit to Saudi Arabia therefore reflects the strong relationship between the two countries and can only contribute to the ongoing efforts to bolster pan-Arab solidarity.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily blames the current escalation of violence in the Middle East in general and Lebanon in particular to Israel's terrorist actions against Arab people and Arab countries. It is clear that Israeli leaders are seeking to keep the whole region in turmoil to divert world public attention from the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab lands, says Tareq Massarweh. It is also in Israel's interest that the world should deal with developments in Lebanon and forget all about the Palestinians and their struggle for freedom, and about the need to evict Israeli forces from the Arab lands to achieve a permanent peace, the writer notes. He says that Israel's abduction of the Shi'ite Sheikh from Lebanon, prompting Islamic groups to take counter actions including the killing of Colonel William Higgins, is part of the Zionist game which also aims to press these groups to kill more hostages and arouse Western outrage against the Arabs. The Israelis also aim to bring the Americans back to the Arab area with the hope that Israel's interests can be safeguarded and that Arab forces can be destroyed, the writer adds. It is quite natural, he notes, that extremist groups will take to the arena in this game and it is natural to see more innocent lives exterminated.

Saw Al Shaab daily commented on the failure of the Arab League mediation committee to find a formula to end the war in Lebanon. The paper said that the three-member committee has now stopped its efforts and declared its total failure to reach common ground with the warring parties so that peace can be established. The announcement brought further pain not to the Lebanese alone, but also to the Arab World at large since this means that the warring factions in Lebanon will continue the process of self-destruction, the paper added. This sad development coupled with Israel's actions and the United States decisions to take action in Lebanon, can only throw a dark cloud over the future of the whole region and does not augur well for the Arab World, the paper noted. It said that Israel seems so powerful only because the Arabs are weak and not united and their forces are in disarray.

Spanish bridge to the Middle East

By John Hooper

SPAIN'S presidency of the European Community drew to a close with the meeting of its leaders in Madrid on 26-27 June. There they agreed a statement on the Middle East which endorsed the main lines of Spain's attempts' during the past six months to pave the way for the peace-making process. The community leaders made an "urgent call" to Israel to end its repressive measures against the Palestinians in the occupied territories and to reopen the schools there. While welcoming Israel's proposals for elections in the territories, they stressed that the inhabitants of East Jerusalem should be permitted to participate, and they backed the PLO's "participation" in direct negotiations, which represented a move by the community from its earlier calls for the PLO to be "associated" with peace moves. The statement will have given satisfaction to the summit meeting's hosts as the Spanish believed that during their presidency they could make a positive contribution to the solution of the Middle East imbroglio.

Among European nations, Spain has a uniquely intimate — if blighted — relationship with both Arabs and Jews. But during the years it remained isolated from the rest of the continent it was impossible for that relationship to be put in use in service of Western peace-making. Spain's first spell of presidency has not only put the seal on its reincorporation into Europe, but also demonstrated the extent to which Spanish diplomats can offer Europe bridges into the Middle East.

The relationship with Muslims and Jews

The Iberian peninsula was home to one of the earliest and largest Jewish communities in

Europe. It was also the only substantial part of mainland Europe to be conquered by the Arabs, whose Moorish successors went on to rule a progressively smaller part of it for almost eight centuries.

The expulsion of the Jews in 1492 and the subsequent brutal persecution of allegedly false converts by the Inquisition puts Spain in an apparently similar position to Germany; but with the difference that Spain's "holocaust" took place five centuries, rather than five decades ago, so that feelings of guilt on the one side and bitterness on the other have largely evaporated.

Insofar as the Muslims are concerned, perhaps the closest parallel is with Greece and the other Balkan states incorporated into the Ottoman Empire. The paradoxical legacy can be gauged from any Spanish dictionary. *Hubo Moros y Cristianos* ("there were Moors and Christians") is a way of saying "there was a hell of a fight," while *bay Moros en la costa* ("there are Moors on the coast") is a way of warning some to take care — living idiomatic evidence of the centuries of struggle between Christians and Muslims in Spain during the Reconquest, and of the persistence of conflict after Spain's Muslim refugees resurfaced in history as the "Barbary Corsairs."

At the same time, *prometer el oro y el Moro* (literally, "to promise the gold and the Moor") means to promise the earth — an acknowledgement that, for most of the time they were in Spain, the Muslims were associated by the Christians with unattainable wealth. In Andalusia particularly, there has been a growing tendency in recent years to look back on Muslim rule as a golden age in Spain's history. Such thinking has coincided with the conversion of several thousand Christian-born Spaniards to Islam.

Underlying attitudes to Jews and Muslims alike, there is the knowledge that the blood of both runs deep in this superficially most Christian of nations. St. Teresa of Avila was the granddaughter of a Jewish convert. Intermarriage was common between Christian and Muslim, but then in Muslim Spain the non-indigenous population of Arabs and Berbers overlaid an indigenous one, by no means all of whose members retained their original religion. The identification of "Muslim" with "Moor" in colloquial speech is misleading. Serious historians prefer to speak of "Muslim Spaniards" and that is increasingly the usage among educated people today.

In modern times, this tangle of antecedents has translated diplomatically into open sympathy for the Arab cause against a background of often courageous support for distressed Jewish communities. After General Franco's offer to recognise Israel was rejected on ideological grounds by an Israeli Labour government in the 1950s, he found it convenient to back anti-Zionism in return for the Arabs' backing over Gibraltar. Yet Franco retained what can only be described as a "soft spot" for the Jews.

The post-Franco policy

Until a few months ago, Spain's policy towards the Middle East was in essence an adaptation of Franco's outlook to the exigencies of Common Market membership. Spain, which recognised the PLO in 1977, and raised the status of its Madrid office to something approximating that of an embassy in 1986, did not recognise Israel until January of that year when diplomatic relations became necessary following Spain's entry into the community. One of the guiding principles of

the community is that members should strive to align their foreign policies. In the run-up to recognition, though, a major effort was made to inform the Arab countries of the reasons behind the decision. Even after that, an annex was attached to the treaty of recognition setting out Spain's distinct position.

Relations with Israel remain far from complete. Neither head of state has yet visited the other's country, and Mr. Shamir's visit to Madrid last May was the first by a prime minister of either nation to the other. Mr. Shamir did not even get a joint press conference with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, let alone a private lunch or dinner with him, much less an audience with the king. The contrast with the visit three months earlier by Yasser Arafat, who was treated almost like a head of state, and who saw both the king and Mr. Gonzalez, was striking.

Spain's objective, say officials, is to complete an initial round of official and state visits with a visit by King Juan Carlos to Israel in 1992, the 500th anniversary of the expulsions. Gradually improved relations with Israel, it is felt, could advance rather than hinder the other main aim of Spain's Middle Eastern policy, which is to do what it can do to promote a settlement acceptable to both sides. Its diplomats' influence and access were recognised at the end of September 1988, when the counsellor and acting chargé d'affaires, at the Spanish embassy in Tunis, Juan Manuel Lopez Nadal, set up the first meeting between a U.S. diplomat and a PLO leader — Mr. Khalid Al Fahim, head of the PLO political department's European section.

According to official sources, the meeting was inspired by a phone call from the first secretary of the U.S. embassy to Lopez Nadal asking him to arrange it. From September onwards, the

Spanish tried without success to get the EEC to initiate contacts with the PLO leader in the hope of persuading him of the advantages of moderation. Much to the frustration of Spanish officials at the foreign ministry, their proposal was blocked by the U.K., West Germany and the Netherlands, until the U.S. declared its hand in mid-December.

The Spanish contribution

The subsequent turnaround in community policy, coming shortly before the start of Spain's presidency on 5 January, did however allow Madrid to help put new life into the community's Middle East diplomacy. Officials see the Spanish-led efforts over the past six months as having fallen into two phases.

The first began, perhaps surprisingly, with a visit to Israel by Spain's foreign minister, Francisco de Fernández Ordóñez. The aim, his officials say, was to ensure that the Israelis did not take against the EEC's initiative from the start. At that time, Spain, together with the other members of the so-called "troika", Greece (the previous president of the community) and France (the next country due to occupy the chair), were planning an extensive tour of the Arab countries most closely involved — Jordan, Egypt and Syria.

The first phase ended with Mr. Arafat's historic visit to Madrid on 27 January, where he held talks with the three countries' foreign ministers. Since then, with the exception of Mr. Shamir's visit, and talks between the "troika" foreign ministers and U.S. Secretary of State Baker in Vienna, the contacts have been at a lower level. The most important was a visit by the directors-general of the "troika" foreign ministries to Moscow. The impression given is that the EEC's initiative

has been running out of momentum.

Spanish diplomats stress that the EEC has no peace plan of its own, nor any desire to impose one. Their aim, therefore, has been to act as go-betweens — identifying areas where the interests of the major players are sufficiently close to raise hopes of a compromise, then persuading them to moderate their positions enough for them to overlap, or at least touch. They point to a succession of subtle changes over the past six months which, it is implied, owe something to community diplomacy coordinated by Spain. The U.S. has become less hostile to an international conference, just as the Soviet Union has become less wary of Israel's peace plan. Previously, neither wanted to know. Now the U.S. says that a conference must be at the right time and properly prepared, while the Soviet Union is prepared, if not to welcome, then at least to consider, the Shamir plan. Both superpowers, moreover, have undertaken to urge moderation on those whom they can influence. President Bush's administration has done some straight talking to America's Jewish community. The Soviet Union gave the EEC directors-general a message for them to take to Syria.

Perhaps most important of all, the last six months have seen considerable progress within the community towards a genuinely united position. It is easy to forget that just over six months ago one of the twelve, Greece, had to be talked out of "going it alone" in recognising the Palestinian state. Spain's contribution to persuading Greece may have been regretted in Arab capitals. But, said one Spanish official of the EEC's initiative, "you can't expect other people to define their positions if your own is inconsistent." — Middle East International, London.

Romania: consumer shortages persist

By Alison Smale
The Associated Press

authorities and mute curiosity for friendly but frightened citizens.

In Cluj and countless other towns, stylish but shoddily built apartments sprout in record time, while old villages crumble away, depopulating "naturally" as their lone stores and schoolhouses are closed.

Across the fertile land, rationing is in force. Food stores grow

barer with each year of what President Nicolae Ceausescu's calls a "golden era." Yet officials, burbling statistics about Romania's advances, assure foreigners the meat they cannot see on shelves is available, just stored in refrigerators.

Last winter, the fifth in a row of government-imposed energy rationing, six Communists who once held very senior posts implored Ceausescu to change course.

"Romania is and remains a European country," they insisted in a letter that later reached the West. "You started changing the geography of the countryside, but you cannot remove Romania to Africa."

The 71-year-old president, the visibly healthy and unchallenged ruler since 1965, swiftly squashed the protest before it had any chance of spreading to other party members.

Writers Andrei Pleșan and Mircea Dineșcu were under virtual house arrest after penning their own protests. Another writer, Dan Deslu, spent two weeks in a Bucharest mental hospital for his dissent.

State policies have cut deep

into the peasant traditions and

the culture and mutual tolerance

nurtured for centuries by 1.7 million ethnic Hungarians and 200,000 Germans in the rolling hills of Transylvania.

In German villages, freshly painted lettering over courtyard gates proudly proclaims the family of the owner and the date the house was built. In Cluj, Hungarian-language names and other culture still thrive, to judge by

the United States, was arrested and charged with treason as media articles and rallies rammed home the dangers of contact with foreigners.

No one knows where Răceanu is, and a question about him clearly rattled officials at a news conference in July during the Warsaw Pact summit in Bucharest.

Same fate

Authors of other protests share this fate, according to Romanian envoys and Western diplomats. Former Cluj University professor Doina Cornea has not been seen since June 6, following her third protest letter to Ceausescu.

Writers Andrei Pleșan and Mircea Dineșcu were under virtual house arrest after penning their own protests. Another writer, Dan Deslu, spent two weeks in a Bucharest mental hospital for his dissent.

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advertising posters. But the city's Hungarian consulate was closed last year in the escalating war of words between Bucharest and Budapest, whose traditional rivalry over Transylvania is exacerbated by sharp ideological divisions over Communism's future.

A Cluj schoolteacher now in Hungary, one of thousands of such refugees from Romania, tearfully recalled how efforts to preserve vestiges of Hungarian tradition in class were slowly eroded by reprahands and the appearance of more and more Romanian-speaking pupils.

Transylvania's ethnic Germans, who have tilled the fertile soil for centuries, are emigrating at the rate of 13,000 to 15,000 a year — and would go faster if Romania let them.

Fear of endangering this emigration once muted West German protest at Romania's human-rights record. Now, Bonn is as outspoken as other capitals, and diplomats say emigration has not suffered.

Ceausescu also is isolated from most East Bloc nations.

Ceausescu claims his brand of government offers more social security, modernity and Marxist equality than Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's reforms or Hungary's open dash toward free elections and a free-market economy.

Figures

As proof, his supporters list statistical claims: — that living standards are 185 times higher than in 1945, 675,000 new apartments are available under this five year plan, industrial investments will increase 90 per cent, and the annual harvest will surge from 30 million to 40 million tonnes a year by 1995.

Romanian officials boast of their unique feat of repaying the nation's entire foreign debt — \$11 billion from 1980 to last March. But they fail to mention the cost in shortages caused by food exports from this bountiful land, and consumers have noticed no recent improvement in the stores.

Credit for paying off the debt and all other achievements goes to Ceausescu, who is the object of a strong personality cult and has installed several close relatives — including his wife, son and brother — in powerful positions. He, in turn, credits Communism.

"We can and must assert most powerfully that only socialism could make such grandiose and wonderful achievements of our nation possible," Ceausescu insisted June 27 at a Communist Party meeting.

He emphasised that private ownership, small farms and the encouragement of profit-seeking entrepreneurs are not Communism.

Western diplomats report that even Romanian officials or intellectuals who once were permitted carefully reported contacts with foreigners have all but stopped attending embassy parties.

There are no Western or even Soviet Bloc newspapers on sale to the general public.

For the best

SEPT / SEPT

Après une période de calme relatif, quant au sort des OTAGES ÉTRANGERS AU LIBAN, l'exécution du colonel américain William Richard Higgins lundi a fait renflouer une immense tension et une vive inquiétude dans les pays dont des ressortissants sont toujours retenus, et en premiers lieu aux Etats-Unis. Revendiquée par l'organisation des opprimés dans le monde, l'assassinat du colonel Higgins s'est accompagné d'une nouvelle menace à l'encontre de l'envoyé spécial de l'archevêque de Canterbury, Terry Waite. Arrivé à échéance mardi sans nouveau communiqué des ravisseurs, l'ultimatum a été relayé le jour même par celui de l'organisation de la justice révolutionnaire, autre mouvement pro-iranien proche du Hezbollah, à l'encontre de l'américain Joseph James Cicippio. Ultimatum qui selon l'JOR prend fin aujourd'hui. Provoquée par l'enlèvement du cheikh Abdul Karim Obeid vendredi au Liban-Sud par un commando israélien, la mort de l'un des 18 otages occidentaux supposés se trouver entre les mains des milices pro-iraniennes met Tel-Aviv sous le feu des critiques de l'opinion américaine mais aussi de certains membres du congrès. Bien que seuls trois pays occidentaux (Etats-Unis, Grande-Bretagne et Suisse) aient officiellement condamné dès le week-end le kidnapping de l'infirme imam de Jibchit, rares sont ceux qui persistent encore à croire que cette opération a joué le rôle «dissuasif» même porté le «coup indéniable» au Hezbollah, que lui attribuait samedi le colonel Raanan Gissin, porte-parole de l'armée israélienne. Il est tout autant difficile d'imaginer que l'Etat hébreu ait pu penser un seul instant que la vie des otages au Liban ne servirait pas de monnaie d'échange. Le premier ministre israélien Yitzhak Shamir l'a bien senti, qui offrait dès lundi d'échanger plus de cent cinquante prisonniers libanais, dont le cheikh Obeid, contre trois soldats de Tsahal et tous les otages occidentaux. Proposition refusée par les ravisseurs, et qui montre, cruellement et残酷, les limites de la force israélienne tout en incitant nombre d'observateurs à estimer que Tel Aviv a commis là une terrible erreur.

Le premier anniversaire de la RUPTURE ENTRE LA CISJORDANIE ET LA JORDANIE a pour sa part été commenté avec satisfaction par le gouvernement jordanien ainsi que par l'OLP. Le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Marwan al-Kassam a notamment souligné dimanche que les relations jordano-palestiniennes étaient «entrées dans une nouvelle phase marquée par la confiance mutuelle, le respect et l'attachement au bien national des deux parties». De son côté, la centrale palestinienne, par la voix de son responsable des affaires économiques, a estimé que la décision du roi Hussein n'avait pas lourdement affecté la situation dans les territoires, et indiqué que l'OLP avait décidé de «palier le vide» et de prendre en charge «les salaires des 23.000 fonctionnaires» autrefois employés par Amman. Le représentant de l'OLP à néammoins déploré «le manque d'empressement» des pays arabes à «s'acquitter de leur devoir» d'assistance financière à l'égard des habitants de Cisjordanie. (D'après agences).

EN BREF

Elections. Le ministre de l'Information, Nassuh Al-Majali, a indiqué lundi que les élections législatives se dérouleront «à la mi-novembre». S'exprimant au cours d'un déjeuner de presse, il a précisé que «de processus [conduisant au scrutin] était désormais encadré», après la signature, du décret par le roi Hussein. Le souverain hachémite avait annoncé dimanche son «avoir ordonné l'organisation d'élections législatives». Par ailleurs, les ministres de l'Économie, Taher al-Masri, des Travaux publics et de l'Habitat, Chaïf Zawaydeh, et de l'Education, Abdallah Nsour, ainsi que le maire d'Amman, Abdel Raouf Al-Kawabeh, ont annoncé cette semaine leur intention d'être candidats à la députation.

Visite américaine... Le secrétaire d'Etat adjoint américain pour le Proche-Orient et l'Asie du Sud-Ouest, John Kelly, est attendu dimanche prochain à Amman, à l'occasion d'une tournée régionale, la première depuis son entrée en fonction. M. Kelly séjournera quarante huit heures dans la capitale où il sera reçu par le roi Hussein.

...et royale. Le roi Carl Gustav de Suède et la reine Silvia effectueront un voyage officiel de quatre jours à Amman, à partir du 18 septembre prochain, suivi d'un séjour privé de soixante douze heures à Agaba. Il s'agit de la première visite des souverains suédois en Jordanie.

20%. Les autorités jordanies ont décidé mardi d'augmenter de 20% les prix des billets d'avion délivrés par toutes les compagnies opérant dans le royaume. Selon un responsable de la Royal Jordanian, cette mesure, qui entrera en vigueur lundi prochain, répond à une recommandation du comité des représentants des compagnies aériennes opérant ou représentées en Jordanie, et aux directives de l'Organisation internationale du transport aérien, IATA. Les billets d'avion avaient déjà été majorés de 3% en novembre dernier, après l'adoption d'une série de mesures d'austérité dues à la dépréciation du dinar, qui a perdu plus de 50% de sa valeur depuis avril 1988.

Aide. Le programme des Nations-Unies pour le développement économique (PNUD) et le fonds arabe de développement économique et social ont décidé d'octroyer une aide technique d'un montant de 70.000 dollars à la Jordanie, pour le financement d'un projet d'administration et de planification des sources d'eau dans le royaume. Selon les termes de l'accord, signé lundi à Amman par le ministre du Plan, Ziad Fariz, et le représentant du PNUD en Jordanie, Ali Atika, des spécialistes rattachés au ministère de l'Eau et de l'Irrigation bénéficieront notamment d'un entraînement sous la conduite d'experts des Nations-Unies.

Sommeil party. Une cinquantaine de personnes en chemises de nuit et pyjamas ont participé durant la nuit de samedi à dimanche à une «sommeil party» en plein air sur la grande place de la ville de Berga, en Espagne. Les participants s'étaient munis de tous les ustensiles nécessaires à la «compétition»: lits, matelas, oreillers, tables de nuit... L'association «La Bauma des encantos», à l'origine du concours, a remis un prix au plus fort ronfleur, au sommeil le plus long et à la chambre improvisée la plus spectaculaire.

Greenpeace. Quatre navires de l'organisation écologiste Greenpeace ont empêché, vendredi, un essai de lancement du missile stratégique américain Trident 2, en pénétrant dans la zone d'où il devait être tiré, au large du Cap Canaveral, en Floride. Les bateaux de Greenpeace ont harcelé pendant plusieurs heures le sous-marin USS Tennessee, d'où devait être lancé le missile, et leurs passagers ont pu accrocher deux banderoles réclamant des «membres débarassés du nucléaire».

Profit record. La compagnie aérienne Kuwait Airways a réalisé un profit record de plus de 52 millions de dollars entre juin 1988 et juin 1989, a annoncé ce week-end son P-dg. Selon Ahmed al-Mashari, ce qui a permis ce résultat est la croissance de l'entreprise nationale depuis sa création en 1960.

Léonard-Duran III. Le boxeur américain Ray Sugar Léonard et le Panaméen Roberto Duran se sont affrontés en plein air et pour la troisième fois le 7 décembre à l'hôtel-Casino «Mirage» de Las Vegas pour le titre mondial des super-moyens (WBC). L'organisateur du combat, Bob Arum, n'a pas précisé si le short à strass serait exigé à l'entrée.

Ré. L'Australie va fournir 800.000 tonnes de blé au Yémen du Sud au cours des cinq années à venir, a indiqué lundi le président du bureau australien du blé (BAB), Clinton Condon. Condition posée par le BAB: l'autorisation de construire une usine de transformation du blé dans le port d'Aden, pour un investissement du gouvernement sud-yéménite estimé à 15 millions de dollars.

Parcs d'attractions

manèges qui tournent plus ou moins rond

Roulez jeunesse et troisième âge!

Depuis la création en 1975 du premier parc d'attractions à Amman,

l'engouement des Jordaniens pour les émotions fortes et le pop corn

ne s'est jamais démenti.

L'ouverture l'an dernier d'un grand centre de loisirs au nord de la capitale en témoigne, même si,

de l'aveu des professionnels, la crise économique assombrira l'avenir.

En voiture...

Attention au départ! On rit, on s'amuse". Non, l'ambiance des parcs d'attractions jordaniens ne ressemble pas comme celle des foires et autres fêtes foraines européennes. Pas de femme à la voix rauque, bâillant le bâton, pas de promesse, quelques mètres plus loin, «du club Al-Ahli, se souvient-il à l'époque, nous n'avions que deux manèges».

L'assiduité du public a fait le reste. Aujourd'hui, dix attractions, depuis l'éternelle grande roue jusqu'à un «bateau pirate», en passant par le train fantôme, constituent le fond d'émodons fortes de la première fête foraine du royaume, et se bousculent sur 9 dumuns (9.000 mètres carrés), entre la route et Djebel Amman.

900.000 visiteurs

On est bien loin des six hectares et demi dont dispose Al-Joubaiha, inaugurée en juin 1988, la dernière née des fêtes foraines qui est aussi la plus grande, «et d'ores et déjà le site le plus visité de Jordanie», clame son

directeur général, John Allan. Fort de 12 attractions, dont une tour de 68 mètres, véritable ascenseur dont la cabine se déplace en spirale et offre un superbe panorama du nord de la capitale, Al-Joubaiha se présente ouvertement comme une entreprise commerciale.

Si le terrain appartient à la municipalité du Grand Amman, le parc de loisirs d'Abou Nseir reste sous contrat avec la compagnie anglaise Chipperfield, conceptrice et constructrice du site.

«L'aménagement a coûté huit millions et demi de dollars, précise John Allan, avancés par un consortium de banques arabes et garantis par la municipalité». Une somme rondelette qui comporte progressivement le succès de l'opération et l'installation de boudiques, louées par l'entreprise.

Depuis l'ouverture, nous avons enregistré 900.000 entrées, poursuit-il, dont 80.000 pendant le Grand Id. Cette année, nous

pensons dépasser les 750.000 visiteurs. C'est plutôt flatteur, quand on songe que le plus grand parc d'attractions britannique, Alton Towers, affiche deux millions de touristes par an». La référence n'est pas innocente: John Allan y a travaillé pendant quinze mois avant de prendre les rênes du parc d'Abou Nseir.

L'implantation d'Al-Joubaiha en rase campagne se révèle par ailleurs être un atout, selon son directeur. «Ca représente une vraie sortie pour les gens. Le parc est également bien desservi par les lignes de bus et depuis quelques mois, les taxis stationnent à l'entrée. De plus, nous sommes en altitude et il fait bien meilleure ici qu'en basse ville».

Autrement dit: bien meilleur qu'à Al-Ahli. «Nous ne considérons pas le parc d'Abou Nseir comme un concurrent», souligne pour sa part Issa Abou Walid, tout en reconnaissant que depuis trois ans, la fréquentation de ses manèges a chuté de 20% à 25%.

Expliquer, selon lui: la crise économique, déjà latente depuis de nombreux mois, et le retour de plus en plus tardif des expatriés, grands consommateurs de Lunaparks. «Autrefois, rappelle-t-il, ils venaient en vacances dès le mois de Ramadan et nous avions 5.000 visiteurs en moyenne par jour».

Déception

Quid du renouvellement des attractions? Nous en changeons une tous les ans, déclare le directeur d'Al-Ahli. Nous avons également un atelier dans la banlieue d'Amman qui construit des manèges, comme la grande balançoire ou la grande roue, et qui y ait place pour un nouveau grand parc dans le royaume», estime John Allan. Le directeur d'Al-Ahli se «rassure» quant à lui en demandant où l'Etat pourra trouver les deux millions de dinars nécessaires à leur réalisation.

Les deux directeurs se disent en outre déçus par l'attitude des autorités à l'égard de leur activité.

«Nous avons fait des propositions aux ministères du Tourisme ou de l'Education qui sont restées lettres mortes», se plaint notamment Issa Abou Walid. Même son de cloche du côté d'Al-Joubaiha. «Nous avons travaillé avec les écoles l'année dernière. Ça a duré que quelques mois, puis le ministère a décrété».

Malgré des statiques plus qu'encourageantes, John Allan se moque lui aussi préoccupé par l'achat de nouveaux manèges, rendu difficile par la chute du dinar et les restrictions imposées sur les importations. «Or, toutes les attractions offertes en Jordanie viennent d'Italie, qui propose les plus compétitifs».

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Alain Renouf.

Droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe Une progression à petits pas

La cause des droits de l'Homme semble marquer des points dans le monde arabe depuis le début de l'année. En février, le Conseil économique et social de l'ONU a notamment accordé le statut de «membre consultatif» à l'Organisation arabe des droits de l'Homme (OADH). En 1987, une demande similaire de l'OADH avait été rejetée à New York, en raison des refus des délégations des pays arabes.

En juin dernier, un colloque consacré à «la protection, l'application et l'éducation des droits de l'Homme dans le monde arabe» s'est tenu à Syracuse en Italie. Organisée par l'Institut supérieur international des sciences criminelles et précédée par trois autres conférences en deux ans, cette réunion a, en quelque sorte, jeté les bases d'une stratégie arabe pour la protection de la torture».

Deux documents ont été publiés à l'issue du colloque. Le premier, «Projet de convention arabe pour la prévention de la torture, des traitements inhumains et dégradants», préconise en particulier la création d'un «comité arabe de prévention de la torture». Hélas, souvent pratiquée contre les opposants politiques. Les Etats seront invités à signer cette convention.

Ali Rafsandjani président

Un pouvoir renforcé

L'«hadjat-eislam» Ali Akbar Rafsandjani, président du parlement iranien depuis neuf ans, a été proclamé président de la République dimanche, suite à l'élection de vendredi. Il remplace Ali Khamenei, promu imam. En effet aux urnes, les Iraniens se sont aussi prononcés en faveur des amendements de la Constitution qui renforcent le pouvoir exécutif, comme le souhaitait Ali Rafsandjani.

Qualifiés de «succès sans précédent» par le ministre de l'Intérieur iranien, les 94,51% de suffrages exprimés vendredi dernier en faveur d'Ali Rafsandjani, constituent en fait un score relativement habituel en Iran. Ali Khamenei avait obtenu à l'élection du 20 octobre 1981, 96,02% des voix: 16.847.717 électeurs avaient voté pour lui, alors qu'Ali Rafsandjani obtient 15.537.394 suffrages. Ali Khamenei n'avait, en revanche, été réélu, quatre ans plus tard, qu'avec 14.200.000 voix et 85,7% des suffrages.

L'écrasante majorité des voix, obtenue par le nouveau président, démontre que les amendements de la Constitution et instituant un pouvoir exécutif fort. Ali Rafsandjani gouvernera donc comme il le souhaite: sans aucun autre pouvoir ou «centre de décision», dont il a souvent dénoncé la responsabilité dans la paralyse des réformes.

Parmi les 60 films présentés cette année à la Mostra de Venise, 23 sont en compétition. Trois favoris se dégagent du lot: Alain Resnais avec «Want to go home», un film tourné en anglais par le réalisateur français et interprété par Gérard Depardieu; l'Italien Ettore Scola, avec «Che ora es et enfin l'Indien Minal Sen avec «Ek din aashan».

On verra aussi «Christian» de Gabriel Axel, le réalisateur

danois du «Festin de Babette»; «Et la lumière fut» du cinéaste géorgien Iotor Ioseliani; «La femme de Rose Hill» du Suisse Alain Tanner, ou encore «Una note di chiaro di luna» de l'italienne Lina Wertmüller.

Le festival de Venise ouvre ses portes du 4 au 15 septembre, le programme officiel met en compétition les nouveaux films de Resnais, Scola et Minal Sen, tandis qu'en section parallèle Resnais et Indiana Jones se partagent le vedette.

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Iran no longer able to delay tackling economic problems

DUBAI (R) — Iran's new leader has a long haul ahead in tackling the country's complex economic problems which can no longer be put aside, Iranian and Western economists say.

They say the problems of the distressed economy are now the leadership's top concern, with the Gulf war over a year ago, immuring ended for late supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and presidential elections not far off the way last weekend.

President-elect Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, one of the few leading clerics with a grasp of the economy, has said economic revival is a priority.

"It would be wrong if some people were hoping that every problem would be solved quickly once the new government takes charge," said Iran's Jomhuri Islami newspaper at the weekend.

Rafsanjani, who is expected to assume the presidency this month, thinks the energy sector must be revived and a huge gap between official and blackmarket exchange rates narrowed.

Western economists agree, but add that a major problem is the oft-forgotten farm sector. Iranian economists predict strong political and bureaucratic resistance to rapid reform.

Economic problems had taken a back seat through eight years of war with Iraq, and 10 years of

revolution led by an Islamic theocracy fresh from the seminary.

They had to learn economic management from scratch, handicapped by their rejection of the free market as ideologically unsound.

"Khomeini refused to address any of the major economic problems. Rafsanjani cannot suddenly reverse his wishes," said a Gulf-based Iranian economist.

The Islamic Revolution's attitude to foreign borrowing, private sector participation, the role of investment and land reform all remain to be clearly defined because they do not fit neatly into an Islamic framework.

Even Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi, a strong supporter of the Islamic system, has said Iran's basic economic laws are not clear enough to encourage efficient development.

Based on official figures, Western economists estimate Iran's terms of trade fell 63 per cent in 1986, rose eight per cent in 1987, and fell again 16 per cent in 1988.

But the blackmarket exchange rate is now around 14 times the official 72 rials to the dollar. About 90 per cent of the economy is state controlled with around 80 per cent of that in the rial sector.

Iranian officials put inflation at 25 to 30 per cent but because of the exchange rate distortions, the

true rate is almost impossible to estimate.

Estimates of how much hard currency Iran needs to reconstruct start at around \$15 billion a year, equal or less than oil earnings of \$12-15 billion a year.

Oil accounts for over 90 per cent of current hard currency earnings and there is little hope of much from elsewhere.

Iran has announced a draft plan to boost heavy industrial exports to almost \$400 million from a mere \$4 million in 1988.

But chronic energy shortages persist and official figures show 120 state-run factories, or 80 per cent of heavy industry, worked at 30 per cent capacity and lost hundreds of billions of rials last year.

Oil industry sources estimate current Iranian production capacity at about three million barrels per day (BPD).

Iranian oil officials have said this could rise to 3.5 million BPD in six months but independent analysts believe this may be over-optimistic and geared more towards strengthening Iran's hand in negotiations for a higher OPEC quota in the next round of oil-producer talks.

Iran's present OPEC quota is 2.64 million BPD.

Asian construction managers in Tehran said much oil capacity along the old frontline with Iraq

was in ruins.

To ease the energy problem, Western economists said Rafsanjani needs correctly targeted development of cheaper natural gas. Iran is estimated to have about 17 per cent of world reserves, second only to the Soviet Union.

Full exploitation of these resources, however, will require cooperation with Japan, South Korea, or Western nations.

This would at least require a political rapprochement with the European Community as relations with the United States remain largely hostile, the economists said.

"We cannot produce enough razer blades, so whole plants are not in the question," said an Iranian political analyst.

Iran must also feed itself if it is not to fritter away hard currency earnings on rising food imports. Iranian officials say the country produces 6.5 million tonnes of wheat a year, loses 800,000 due to inefficiency, and needs to import 2.5 million.

Major problems include land ownership, what the state should do with large areas of land it confiscated after the revolution, halting the drift to urban areas, and improving crop yields which are half the world average for similar climates.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Britain pledges \$1.6m for Sudan

LONDON (AP) — Britain will provide an additional £1 million (\$1.65 million) for assistance to war victims in southern Sudan, the foreign office has said. Britain has now contributed a total of £7.2 million (\$11.9 million) to the United Nations' "Operation Lifeline" programme.

Turkey imports Bulgarian iron

ANKARA (R) — Turkey, at odds with Bulgaria over a flood of ethnic Turkish refugees crossing its border, is importing Bulgarian iron to offset an iron and steel strike, a Turkish Labour official said. Ali Tekin, a spokesman for the Celic-Is steel workers union, told Reuters it was wrong for the government to campaign against Bulgaria while paying millions of dollars to Sofia for the iron. About 24,000 workers at mills in Karabuk near the Black Sea and Iskenderun in the south have been on strike since May 4 to demand pay rises. The mills produce most of Turkey's annual output of nine million tonnes of iron and steel. Tariffs on iron imports were lifted after the strike began. "The government won't reveal figures but we believe by the end of May alone Turkey paid some \$396 million for imported iron, most of it inferior-quality Bulgarian products received through Romania," Tekin said.

Argentina lifts restrictions on U.K. imports

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina, which broke diplomatic links with Britain during the 1982 Falkland Islands war, has lifted all restrictions on British imports, Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo said Tuesday. "The Argentine government has decided to lift the trade restrictions on imports from the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and its dependencies," Cavallo told a news conference. Since taking power on July 8 the Peronist government has made several conciliatory gestures towards London, aiming at improving Anglo-Argentine relations. Argentina claims sovereignty over the South Atlantic archipelago which Argentine troops overran in April 1982. A British task force recovered the colony, a largely barren group of islands inhabited by about 2,000 people principally engaged in sheep-farming, after a 10-week war. British Foreign Office officials have said recently that Argentina should take practical steps such as restoring trade and other links before starting talks. Cavallo said Argentina would treat commerce with Britain the same as trade with any other nation. "Likewise, we have ceased all restrictions on the financing of Argentine exports to the United Kingdom and its dependencies," he added.

Bermuda court fines Iranian oil firm

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — The Bermuda supreme court has fined Iran's national oil company \$25,000 for making a death threat against a witness called to testify in its lawsuit against two Ashland Oil Co. subsidiaries. Lawyers for Ashland Overseas Training Ltd had charged that its key witness, Iranian lawyer Fayed Amin, had been warned by Fayed Hosseini, director of international affairs for the National Iranian Oil Co., that Muslim Iranians who helped foreign companies such as Ashland would be killed. In the suit, the Iranian company had charged that Ashland Oil of Mississippi had failed to pay for \$282 million worth of Iranian oil delivered to it. Bermuda-based Ashland Overseas was also named as a defendant. Amin, who is a Muslim, testified despite the death threat. Judge David Hull ordered the National Iranian Oil Co. to pay \$25,000 plus court costs and scolded the Iranian official accused of making the threat.

Kodak earnings down 85 per cent

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (R) — Eastman Kodak Co., the world's largest producer of photographic products, has said that second-quarter earnings fell 85 per cent, weighed down by the cost of a restructuring programme. However, sales for the quarter ended June 11 rose nine per cent to a record \$4.5 billion. The decline in second-quarter earnings to \$60 million from a record \$390 million in last year's second quarter was also due to high interest costs associated with its \$1.1 billion takeover of Sterling Drug Inc. last year. Kodak, which derives about 45 per cent of its sales overseas, said profits also were hurt by the dollar's strength over last year.

Filipino government workers strike

MANILA (AP) — Thousands of government employees have launched a nationwide strike to demand higher wages that President Corazon Aquino said the country cannot afford. About 12,000 striking workers rallied in front of the senate building to press their demand, police said. They joined public school teachers who walked off the job eight days ago over salary demands. Officials said the extent of the walkout was unclear. About 25 per cent of the 1,350 employees at Ninoy Aquino International Airport joined the walkout but operations there were unaffected, said Airport Manager Eduardo Carrascosa.

Jordan exports 241,000 tonnes of fruits, vegetables

MAFRAG (J.T.) — Jordan exported 241,000 tonnes of fruits and vegetables to other countries in the first half of 1989 bringing in a revenue of £1.42 million, according to Minister of Agriculture Adnan Badran.

The ministry is embarking on new policies aimed at increasing agricultural exports to bring in more badly needed foreign exchange, and special attention is being given to agricultural production in the Mafrag area, the minister said during a visit to the Mafrag Governorate.

Badran met with farmers, local officials and agricultural engineers during the tour which included a number of farmlands and government offices.

The ministry will adopt certain

measures to enable the agricultural sector to contribute more effectively towards enhancing the national economy which is at the moment going through difficulties, the minister pointed out.

The Mafrag region has proved to be specially interested in tomato production and the Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company, will adopt specific measures to boost production and is considering setting up a tomato paste factory in the governorate, the minister pointed out.

After discussions with the local farmers at a meeting, the minister opened an agricultural exhibition which displayed a variety of agricultural crops from different areas around Mafrag.

Egypt commissions study for Suez Canal expansion

AMSTERDAM (R) — The Egyptian government has commissioned a Dutch-Egyptian engineering consultancy consortium to conduct a study into the feasibility of expanding the Suez Canal, a spokesman for the consortium said Tuesday.

"On July 26, the Nedeco Consortium received a commission from the Suez Canal Authority (SCA) to carry out a feasibility study into an expansion of the canal," said Financial Manager Peter Steenbergen of Dutch Engineering Consultancy Bureau NEI.

Confirming Dutch press reports, he said the Arab fund would fund the 18-month study.

Egypt cuts oil export prices by \$1.25 a barrel

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has reduced its oil export prices by \$1.25 a barrel for all grades, the third cut in almost five weeks, an Oil Ministry official said Wednesday.

The official, who spoke anonymously under ministry rules, said the new prices took effect on Aug. 1 and will remain in force until a new review is made by the pricing committee.

This departed from the practice

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, August 2, 1989	
Central Bank official rates	
Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	Japanese yen (for 100)
573.4	579.4
Pound Sterling	Dutch guilder
952.4	961.9
Deutschmark	Swedish krona
309.7	312.8
Swiss franc	Malta lira (for 100)
360.9	364.5
French franc	Belgian franc (for 10)
91.4	92.3

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.	
One Sterling	1.6610/20
One U.S. dollar	1.1738/48
1.8495/502	2.0868/75
2.0868/75	2.1592/535
2.1592/535	38.71/75
38.71/75	6.2675/725
6.2675/725	133.1/1332
133.1/1332	136.50/60
136.50/60	6.3425/75
6.3425/75	6.8075/125
6.8075/125	7.1925/75
7.1925/75	One ounce of gold 370.00/370.50

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Market rumours, take-over bids and a rally in the bond market boosted the all ordinaries index 10.7 points to 1,549.3, nearing a post-crash high set in August 1988.

TOKYO — The Nikkei Index crossed the 35,000 mark to a new traded high but stepped back on profit-taking to close at 34,899.34, a gain of just 0.88.

HONG KONG — The Hang Seng Index closed 3.87 higher at 2,582.83 after profit-taking pared a 21-point rise. "Some investors were cautious but the upward trend seems confirmed," a local broker said.

SINGAPORE — Late bargain-hunting helped shares recover from early falls. The Straits Times Industrials fell 4.81 points to 1,342.27.

BOMBAY — The market was undermined by rumours that Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi might call early elections, and prices fell on speculative selling.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking set in after the market reached new 1989 highs and dealers said investors were wary of pushing prices much beyond current levels. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax Index gained 8.44 to 1,587.35.

ZURICH — Prices closed firm after a hesitant opening. Demand for chemical shares led the market higher. The All-Share Swiss Index gained 5.2 to a year's high of 1,169.7.

PARIS — Share prices closed slightly higher after a fairly quiet session, with the CAC General Index edging up to a new high. It rose to 505.9 from 504.9 on Tuesday and the 50-Share Price Indicator ended 0.11 per cent higher.

LONDON — Share prices ended at the day's highest levels helped by gains on Wall Street on the back of bargain-hunting. The FTSE Index closed 15.3 points up at 2,307.6.

NEW YORK — Blue chip stocks were a trace lower in morning trading but remained mixed in a tight range in light trading. The Dow Jones Industrials were down one at 2,640.

CONCORD Cinema Tel: 677420

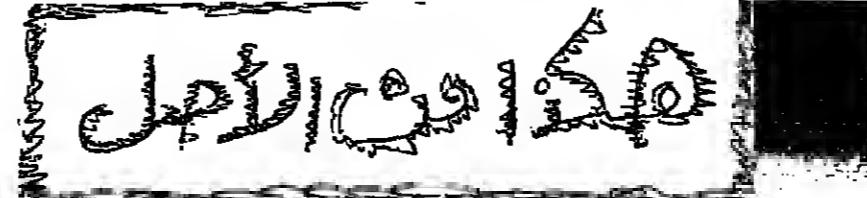
1) MICHAEL JACKSON
MOON WALKER
Only one show at 3:30
2) The Arabic film
Shows at 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Performances: 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

STX Cinema Tel: 675571

STAKEOUT
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

PLAZA Cinema Tel: 677420

BREMIENS DESIRS
Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 10:30 p.m.



Yannick Noah thinks of retiring

STRATTON, VT. (R) — Yannick Noah, one of tennis's favorite drawing cards, is seriously contemplating retirement.

The 29-year-old Noah, who squeaked by a first-round match against Briton Jeremy Bates 4-6, 7-6 (8-6), 6-2 Tuesday at the \$62,500 international '89 tennis tournament, has been frustrated by frequent injuries and a plummeting ranking.

Known for playing for the love of the sport, the Frenchman admits to a loss of confidence and enjoyment in his tennis.

"I play because I love the game and I love to have a good time and play some semi-finals and finals, but struggling is not much fun for me," said the 25th-ranked Noah.

"I feel that it's very difficult to stay when you are one of the top players and having to put all this energy into coming back, especially now that I'm struggling just to stay in the top 20."

Noah, who has thrilled crowds with his athletic prowess and personality, has won 22 tournaments since 1978. His most impressive victory came in winning the French Open title in 1983, and although many experts thought

he would catapult to no. 1 after that, Noah never went past third.

Noah plans to wait the summer

practicing and playing as much as he can — and then evaluate his improvement after the U.S. Open. Unwilling to definitely state that a poor result at the open will force his hand, Noah indicated that that could be his judgment day.

"I just want to change," said Noah, who hasn't won a title since Milan in February 1988. "I want to go somewhere else, just basically take off in a boat for a few years. I want to live outside of Yannick Noah, tennis players. I'm looking forward to that."

Tennis great Arthur Ashe found Noah, the son of a former professional soccer player, in Cameroon and his tennis career began.

"I was so young, I don't think I ever decided to be a tennis player, it just happened this way," said Noah, who will meet hard-serving American Jim Grabb in the second-round at the international '89.

"How, I'm going to have to make my first decision, as a man, as to what I want to do. And I don't think I can do that right now."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

TOP AMERICAN FERRY TO JOIN ROME: Danny Ferry, one of the United States' most promising young basketball players, has signed for Messaggero Roma of Italy. General manager Claudio Coccia said Wednesday Ferry and signed a one-year contract in Washington Tuesday with an option to renew. The move came as a surprise in basketball circles in the United States where Ferry, the top college player last year, had been expected to sign for the Los Angeles Clippers. Messaggero president Carlo Sama refused to confirm reports that the price was one million dollars. "I think it's enough that a player like Ferry has agreed to come to Italy. It's a historical event. Never before has a player decided to begin his professional career in Italy rather than in the NBA (the U.S. National Basketball Association)." In the United States, Ferry is considered a precision passer of the ball and promises to be one of the game's great all-rounders.

CHANG, AGASSI TO MISS AUSTRALIAN OPEN: Young Americans Michael Chang, the French Open champion, and Andre Agassi will miss the 1990 Australian Open, organisers of the first Grand Slam of the season said in Melbourne. Chang and Agassi are ranked sixth and seventh in the world respectively.

Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia and West Germany's Steffi Graf, the world's top men and women players, will return to defend their singles titles from January 15 to 28 at the national tennis centre. The tournament has also attracted Martina Navratilova of the United States and Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, the world's second and third ranked players. (R)

BRAZILIAN STAR SET TO JOIN BAYER: West German first division soccer club Bayer Leverkusen Tuesday dismissed rumours Brazilian star Jorginho would pull out of the deal to join them next month from Rio De Janeiro club Flamengo. Bayer Manager Reiner Calmund said the 25-year-old right-back had signed a three-year contract with the Bundesliga club and part of an undisclosed transfer fee had already been paid. Brazilian press reports said last week Flamengo's arch-rivals Vasco Da Gama had negotiated with Bayer for Jorginho to join them on loan until June. But Calmund said: "We are not interested in all the chat that the transfer has gone wrong. He will be playing for us in September." (R)

MARADONA TO ARRIVE LATE, BUT RIFT DENIED: Napoli general manager Luciano Moggi said in Naples Tuesday that Diego Maradona would return to Italy later than expected but denied rumours of a rift between the club and the Argentine World Cup captain. Moggi said Maradona's agent, Guillermo Coppola, had phoned him from Buenos Aires to say the player would return to Naples on August 16 — a week before Flamengo play their first game of the season. Maradona was expected back Thursday to take his customary pre-season tune-up at an Alpine clinic. Moggi was upset that Maradona would not appear this week. "A delay of a day or so would be all right, but we won't tolerate any longer," he said. Maradona is reported to be on a family skiing holiday in the exclusive Andean resort of Las Lenas. Coppola said: "Maradona is going on holiday like everyone else. Afterwards, like everyone else, he will be back at work. In Italy, of course. But after his holiday." (R)

WHAT DO YOU BID? adding 213 points Tuesday with Lyle Larooch's 160-pound (73-kilogramme) Marin, boated on 50-pound (23-kilogramme) test line.

Marina Del Rey of California moved into third place with 400 points with Carl Lambert and Ronald Smothers picking up 200 points each with tag-and-release Marin catches.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold: ♠AKQ6 ♠95 ♠AK13 ♠J63 Q.5—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 0 Pass 1 1 1 1
What do you bid now?
Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦KJ63 ♠A106 ♠AK5 ♠87
What is your opening bid?
Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦KQ73 ♠A106 ♠AK5 ♠87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 2 2 2 Pass
What action do you take?
Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♦KQ73 ♠A106 ♠AK5 ♠87
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 2 2 Pass
1 2 2 2 7
What action do you take?
Look for answers on Monday.

THE BETTER HALF

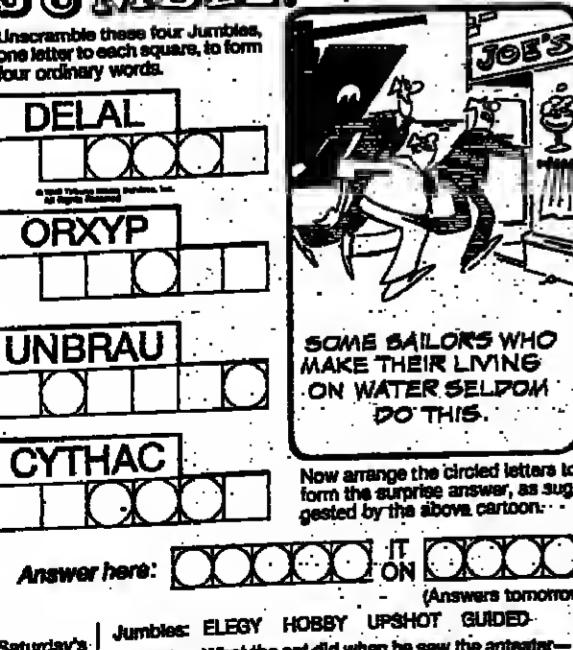
By Harris



"We could borrow against the equity in my bowling ball! Ants live in the holes, so technically it's a house!"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRABLED WORD GAME
by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Answer here: IT
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumble: ELEGY HOBBY UPSHOT GUIDED BUGGED OUT

Answer:



An inspector, right, checking for banned books in a Peking bookstall as the owner waits. The China

News Agency reported Thursday that books written by leading dissident authors have been banned.

China blasts exiled students

PEKING (R) — China Wednesday bitterly attacked fugitive students and intellectuals who have called for the overthrow of the Peking government, and lashed at Voice of America radio for giving them extensive coverage.

About 500 Chinese students and scholars met in Chicago last weekend to form the Front of Democratic China and announced plans to open a radio station and underground newspaper to promote democracy on the mainland.

The main speakers fled China after troops and tanks crushed student-led protest in Peking June 4, with many deaths.

In its first report of the meeting, the People's Daily Communist Party newspaper on its front page denounced the student leaders as "thieves who had sold out the country" and said their movement was doomed to failure.

"These traitors on the run —

however much they rely on anti-Chinese support in the United States, Taiwan and Hong Kong, however much they madly jump up and down, whatever trouble-making troupe they set up... they are simply despicable hooligans," it said.

It attacked U.S. government-funded Voice of America (VOA) radio for giving extensive coverage to dissident movement leaders Wuerkai and Yan Jiaqi.

"Using these traitors to wantonly advocate overthrowing the Chinese People's Republic and government is a gross interference in the internal affairs of China," the newspaper said. "It seriously damages the good relations between the U.S. and China."

"VOA is simply lifting a rock to drop it on its own feet," the newspaper said, reviving a well-known dictum of the late Chinese ruler Mao Tsetung.

China has repeatedly attacked

VOA for its coverage of the student protests and expelled two of its reporters.

The People's Daily quoted Hong Kong and Taiwan press reports as saying the dissidents had received money from Hong Kong and the Nationalist government on Taiwan and that Wueraikai had his picture taken with a nationalist official in Chicago.

Wuerkai and another student at the Chicago meeting, Li Lu, are among 21 students on a wanted list published by the Peking police June 13. China is known to have captured only about seven of them.

A Western diplomat said the ferocity of the attack reflected Peking's fear of the influence the new organisation would have on Chinese students abroad and on Chinese on the mainland.

The People's Daily attacked Wueraikai for saying that "tens of thousands" were killed June 4.

LDP successor search near end

TOKYO (AP) — The leader of a small group within the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has emerged as a possible kingmaker as the party searches for a replacement for resigning Prime Minister Sosuke Uno.

Toshiro Komoto, head of a 30-member LDP faction in parliament, was the focus of speculation Tuesday that either he or one of his faction members would be the next party president, and, because the LDP holds a majority in the powerful Lower House of Parliament, Japan's next prime minister.

The mass-circulation newspaper Asahi Shimbun said behind-the-scenes negotiations centered on Komoto's faction. The president is to be formally elected next Tuesday.

Komoto's victory "is the wish

of our whole faction," said Komoto's protege Toshiki Kaifu, who is also seen as a leading contender for the party's top post.

Kyodo News Service said support for Kaifu, 58, is growing in the factions headed by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita and former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, and that he also would be more acceptable to young party members.

The report said Abe had

phoned Komoto, 78, and indirectly asked him not to run.

Without Komoto in the race, and with Abe and Takeshita backing him, Kaifu would be the leading candidate.

However, a Komoto faction official said Kaifu and Komoto have not changed their minds.

"There has been no change in



Sosuke Uno

Mr. Kaifu's position," said the official, who requested anonymity. "He continues to support the candidacy of Mr. Komoto, and has not said anything about running himself."

Who are the bad guys in Australia?

By Richard Bill
The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Australia's police forces are reeling from a series of recent scandals in which senior officers have been charged with rape, corruption and drug trafficking.

"It makes me wonder why the hell we have an oath of office," said Tony Day, spokesman for the New South Wales (NSW) Police Association.

Some police say that the cases involve a relatively small number of police and that the good deeds of law enforcement officers usually go unpunished.

Former NSW detective Superintendent Harry Blackburn was charged in late July with 27 counts of violent sexual assault for crimes, dating back to 1969, that he had been responsible for investigating. He allegedly forced couples from their cars, tied up the men and raped the women.

Police in three of Australia's six states were implicated earlier in the month in a 2-million (U.S.) dollar-a-year stolen car racket that officials said was part of a "highly organised criminal enterprise." Police involvement was said to date to

a shootout that went wrong. An innocent aborigine was gunned down in bed by a police special forces team in a hunt for another man who had shot two policemen.

The government also ordered an official investigation into the deaths of 105 aborigines in police custody nationwide since 1980. It found that police officials had perjured themselves under oath, fueling allegations that many of the deaths were the result of police brutality.

And, in a separate corruption inquiry, senior NSW police said 22 officers were dismissed and more 200 others counseled last year following 2,230 public complaints for alleged assault, neglect of duty and rudeness.

Assistant Police Commissioner Tony Laner said that in an effort to regain public confidence, all senior police officials must provide details of their financial assets and debts.

Despite the bad publicity, federal police spokesman Brian Mimmicks said: "It's the usual problem of a few bad apples. The media doesn't say anything about the 'thank you' letters that come in for a job well done. They concentrate only on the bad side of things."

Poland elects premier

WARSAW (R) — Poland's communist leaders stamped out an unprecedented parliamentary revolt Wednesday and forced the appointment of controversial Interior Minister General Czeslaw Kiszczak as prime minister.

Parliamentary sources said communist leaders pushed through his appointment by threatening to dissolve parliament and ditch dozens of rebel communist and allied peasant and democratic deputies from safe seats if Kiszczak was not approved.

Kiszczak, a craggy, 63-year-old army general and chief executor of martial law in the early 1980s, was then comfortably elected by 237-173 votes with 10 abstentions.

But in a further sign of political turmoil in this East Bloc country, parliament also voted 206-169 to form a special commission to consider impeaching outgoing Prime Minister Mieczyslaw Rakowski and members of his government for economic mismanagement.

Rakowski was elected Communist Party leader Saturday. The impeachment move appeared clearly aimed at discrediting the ruling party but several of its deputies voted with the opposition for creation of the commission.

Kiszczak promised to present a cabinet and programme in two weeks but he indicated there would be no major change in economic policy by re-appointing Ireneusz Sekula as deputy prime minister with responsibility for the economy.

Solidarity's parliamentary leader Bronislaw Geremek offered qualified opposition support, saying it would back sound economic policies but would not shore up "the crumbling structures of power."

Geremek told state radio it was "high time" for an opposition government but he was not sure the Soviet Union, the Polish army and police were ready to accept it yet.

Kiszczak's election was thrown into serious doubt Tuesday by a revolt among communist deputies

as well as members of the peasant and democratic parties allied with them since the late 1940s.

Sixty of the Peasant Party's 76 deputies and 13 Communists said Tuesday they would join Solidarity's 161 deputies in voting against Kiszczak. Some sources said up to 80 per cent of the 27 democratic deputies also threatened to join the revolt.

Despite this pressure, at least 12 non-Solidarity deputies voted against Kiszczak and five Communists were among those seen raising their hands against him.

Geremek said they opposed Kiszczak because he had the image of a ruthless general — despite his recent role as chief negotiator in a historic political reform deal with Solidarity — and because his appointment would show the country the reforms had changed nothing.

His election was the second narrow escape for the Communists in two weeks in getting a top party appointment through parliament.

Only the assistance of a few Solidarity moderates June 19 secured Jaruzelski's election as president after a mini-revolt among the Communists' allies.

Geremek, in his radio interview, said Solidarity was ready to command a parliamentary majority.

But Peasant Party sources told Reuters Wednesday they were forced to back down by outraged Communists at a series of noisy caucus meetings Tuesday night and Wednesday morning.

"We were told at a caucus meeting this morning that if we could not elect a prime minister, the president (General Wojciech Jaruzelski) would dissolve parliament and the splinter group would not be able to get back into parliament," a Peasant deputy said.

"It was realistic and it is realistic at any moment that the opposition creates a government," he said.

Blacks launch defiance campaign

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Scores of black and Indian patients, backed by throngs of protesters, sought treatment at segregated hospitals for whites Wednesday as the anti-apartheid movement launched a nationwide defiance campaign.

At major hospitals in Johannesburg and Durban, patients ranging from school children to wheelchair-bound grandmothers were admitted for treatment. Hospital officials, trying to avoid confrontations, said they would not turn away anyone who

appeared in genuine need of medical care.

Twelve white women supporting the protest were arrested in Johannesburg, but no violence was reported at any of the eight hospitals targeted by the Mass Democratic Movement, a coalition of anti-apartheid groups that has organised the defiance campaign.

In the port city of Durban, about 800 protesters staged an illegal demonstration near Addington hospital while scores of blacks and Indians sought

admission for treatment under the direction of senior anti-apartheid leaders.

The first protester to enter the facility was Mariana Jappa, an elderly Indian woman in a wheelchair. She was processed and given an admission card.

More than 20 blacks were admitted to Johannesburg General hospital by mid-morning, and scores of supporters gathered nearby. Like Addington, Johannesburg General regularly admits some blacks for emergency care and some specialised treatment.

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